

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 296282

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 296282

NODIS

FOLLOWING GENEVA 9674 SENT ACTION SECSTATE DEC 6; REPEATED
TO YOU QUOTE

S E C R E T GENEVA 9674

NODIS

FOR EDMONDSON FROM WISNER

DEPT PASS LONDON FOR SEPSHKMO. 11652: XGDS-1
RAGS: PFOR RH UK
SUBJ: RHODESIA CONFERENCE: RICHARD BRIEFS OBSERVERS;
IH'S RETURN

1. IVOR RICHARD MET FOR 1 1/2 HOURS WITH FRONT LINE
OBSERVERS AFTERNOON OF DECEMBER 4 TO BRIEF THEM ON THAT
MORNING'S WORKING SESSION WITH HEADS OF DELEGATION.
OBSERVERS HAD COMPLAINED THAT RICHARD'S RESORT TO RESTRICTED
WORKING SESSIONS, WITH ONLY DELEGATION HEADS AND LIMITED
NUMDUF AIDES PRESENT, WAS PREVENTING OBSERVERS FROM KNOWING
WHAT WAS HAPPENING. THEY HAVE THEREFORE INSISTED ON
BEING BRIEFED AFTER EACH SESSION. BY GIVING OVERLY LONG
AND DETAILED BRIEFINGS, RICHARD HOPES TO BREAK THEM OF

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 296282

THIS HABIT AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

2. OBSERVERS MADE POINT OF PRESSING RICHARD AS XJHEN UK INTENDED TO TABLE ITS PLAN FOR INTERIM GOVERNMENT. RICHARD REFUSED TO COMMIT HIMSELF ON TIMING OR TO BE DRAWN OUT ON WHAT UK PAPER MIGHT CONTAIN. ZAMBIAN OBSERVER KAMANA OFFERED WHAT BRITISH REGARDED AS USEFUL ADVICE IN URGING RICHARD TO PRESENT BRITISH IDEAS FIRST IN BILATERAL SESSIONS WITH INDIVIDUAL DELEGATIONS. IF UK PAPER WAS FIRST TABLED AT LARGER WORKING SESSION, KAMANA SAID DELEGATIONS MIGHT BE FORCED INTO TAKING PUBLIC POSITIONS FROM WHICH IT WOULD LATER BE DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO RETREAT, AS HAPPENED ON THE INDEPENDENCE DATE ISSUE.

3. OBSERVERS ALSO WANTED TO KNOW WHEN RHODESIANS WOULD PRESENT THEIR PAPER ON INTERIM GOVERNMENT, NOW THAT NATIONALISTS HAD, AS REQUESTED, OUTLINED THEIR PROPOSALS. RICHARD ACKNOWLEDGED THAT OBSERVERS HAD VALID POINT AND AGREED TO QUERY VAN DER BYL AGAIN ON WHEN HIS PAPER WILL BE PRESENTED.

4. BRITISH NOW EXPECT SMITH TO RETURN TO GENEVA DECEMBER 8 OR 9. THEY WERE NOT SURE WHETHER VAN DER BYL WILL TABLE RHODESIAN PAPER IN ADVANCE OR AWAIT SMITH'S RETURN. AMBASSADOR CATTO WAS TOLD BY VAN DER BYL AT DINNER PARTY SATURDAY EVENING THAT RHODESIAN PAPER WOULD BE TABLED TUESDAY. HE SAID PAPER WOULD OUTLINE IN DETAIL "THE PROPOSALS DR. KISSINGER GAVE TO US" IN AN EFFORT TO SHOW HOW FAR CONFERENCE HAS MOVED AWAY FROM WHAT RHODESIANS REGARD AS ONLY BASIS FOR SETTLEMENT. VAN DER BYL SAID HE EXPECTED NATIONALIST REACTION TO RHODESIAN PAPER TO ST WALLS OF CONFERENCE ROOM TO SHAKING. CATTO UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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